

27490—Continued.

"The *B. spinosa* (= *B. arundinacea*) grows (when it is vigorous) in the manner best adapted to protect its young stems from herbivora, Rivière says. The stems branch out from the base, and their spiny branches, overhanging to the ground, prevent animals from approaching the trunk and eating the tender young stems. This makes it difficult to establish hedges, for one has to spare the lateral branches from the base in order to protect the young shoots of the following year, and under these conditions transplantation is painful, or else it is necessary to protect the plants during their first years, which is not practicable." (*De Lehaie.*) (Seed.)

27491 and 27492. PUERARIA spp.

From Darjiling, Bengal, British India. Presented by Mr. G. H. Cave, curator Lloyd Botanic Garden. Received April 6, 1910.

Seeds of the following:

27491. *PUERARIA PHASEOLOIDES* (Roxb.) Benth.

Distribution.—Common in northern and eastern India, Malacca, and the southern part of China.

27492. *PUERARIA* sp.

27493. ABELMOSCHUS MANIHOT (L.) Medic.

From Yokohama, Japan. Purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Co. at the request of Mr. Charles J. Brand. Received April 6, 1910.

"The root of this plant is used by the Japanese as a size for their handmade papers, which are prepared from the inner bark of *Edgeworthia gardneri* and several varieties of the paper mulberry. The root is macerated in water and added to the paper pulp." (*Fairchild.*)

"The mucilage is obtained from the roots of this plant as follows: Wash off the dirt, soak in fresh water for some hours, and crush them to pieces. The substance thus prepared should then be put in a linen bag and soaked again in water. When the material gets thoroughly soft, the juice comes out of the bag by manipulating in the vat in which pulp has been previously mixed to receive the paste. The bag should be squeezed now and then, as the mucilage does not come out by itself. The paper maker can judge whether sufficient mucilage is in the water or not by its glutinous consistency. This is the best mucilaginous plant extensively used in Japan." (*Yokohama Nursery Co.*) (Seed.)

Distribution.—Scattered throughout the Tropics; naturalized in the southern part of the United States from Florida to Texas.

27494. DIOSPYROS TESSELLARIA Poir.

From Reduit, Mauritius. Presented by Dr. B. Boname, director, Agricultural Station. Received April 6, 1910.

"A tree, or shrub, with alternate, oval, or ovate, glabrous leaves. Flowers densely clustered, sessile, arising from lateral nodules on the young branches. The fruit is edible and is globular or ellipsoidal in form. The wood is valuable." (*Extract from Hiern, Transactions Cambridge Philosophical Society, vol. 12, pt. 1, p. 176.*) (Seed.)

Distribution.—In the forests of the highest parts of the island of Mauritius. Probably produces the ebony of Mauritius; fruits edible.

27495 and 27496.

From Kingston, Jamaica. Presented by Mr. Aston W. Gardner, manager, The Tangley Fruit Co. Received April 7, 1910.